

JOB Seeker News

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<http://www.wa.gov/esd/lmea>

Highlights

Western Washington Fair Hiring Now

Officials at the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup are hoping to hire more than 2,000 workers but fewer applicants are showing up than expected. "With just three weeks until the start of the fair, we are far behind where we should be in hiring," said Theresa Hoffman, lead worker at the temporary Employment Security office at the fairgrounds.

Available jobs include food service, clean-up, sales, ride and game booth operators. Wages start at \$6.50. Interested persons can apply at the office, which is located at the yellow gate by the roller coaster on the West Side of the fairgrounds on Fifth Street.

Average Blue-collar Pay Increases In Puget Sound

Blue-collar workers in the Puget Sound area are among the highest paid in the country, according to a recent survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. According to the survey, average pay in 1999 was \$26.62 for electricians, \$22.07 for mechanics and repair supervisors, \$21.96 for bus and truck mechanics and \$20.74 for machinists. Average pay for all Blue-collar workers was \$16.37 compared to \$21.95 for white-collar workers.

"Seattle is ahead in all major occupations across the country," said Nancy Treadwell, a regional economist based in San Francisco. Treadwell said the

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Puget Sound Average Pay in July 1999

Worker Category	Hourly Pay	Worker Category	Hourly Pay
All workers	\$18.63	Blue collar, all	\$16.37
All workers, full-time	\$19.37	Blue collar, full-time	\$16.81
White collar, all	\$21.95	Blue collar, part-time	\$9.31
White collar, full-time	\$22.57	Blue collar, union	\$18.38
White collar, part-time	\$15.86	Blue collar, non-union	\$13.70
White collar, union	\$23.84	Service, all	\$10.98
White collar, non-union	\$20.97	Service, full-time	\$11.81

Exclusive of benefits, overtime, tips, vacation or holiday pay, non-production bonuses, and stock based compensation. Includes King, Snohomish, Pierce, Kitsap, Island and Thurston Counties.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

survey found a sizable disparity in pay for union and nonunion blue-collar workers, with union members averaging \$18.38 an hour compared to \$13.70 for nonunion workers (see table below for more pay information).

The Bureau surveyed salaries at 312 companies representing 809,200 workers in the region. The survey did not include agriculture, private households, self-employed or the federal government. It also did not include overtime pay, non-production bonuses or exercised stock options.

Eastern Washington

Spokane Minneapolis-based Innuity Inc. plans to open an operations center in Spokane that will employ 200 staff, mainly as sales representatives. The firm provides Web-enabling software.

Moses Lake South Korean-based Korco Foods will move its US headquarters from Michigan to Moses Lake, creating up to 25 new jobs. The firm plans to ship three containers of beef each day from its new site to the Port

of Seattle, and then to South Korea.

Spokane New start-up World Wide Packets Inc., manufacturer of networking equipment, plans to double its Spokane area workforce from 50 to 100 within six months and expects that figure to eventually double again to 200.

Mead Bozeman, Montana-based Ranch & Home Supply Inc. has broken ground on a new outlet on Highway 2 near Mead that will employ 50 to 60 employees. The new store is expected to open in mid-September.

Western Washington

Hazel Dell A new Wall-Mart retail center will be opening in Hazel Dell Plaza early next year and is expected to provide jobs for about 200 workers.

Vancouver Keybank will open its second banking office in Clark County this fall that will employ between 15 and 20 workers.

Bellingham Application service

provider ApplicationStation.com plans to consolidate its operations in Bellingham and eventually employ as many as 250 employees there within two years.

Vancouver Hewlett-Packard, which has campuses in Corvallis, Oregon and Vancouver, plans to hire 2,500 consultants and technicians over the next three years. Information was not available how many of those new hires would be at the Vancouver location.

Olympia Start-up Amanda GB Corp. will manufacture gear boxes and brakes at its new Olympia plant. The firm has hired 25 workers and plans to grow to 50-80 employees by year-end, when full production begins.

Washougal Bicorn Crystal Products plans to double sapphire production and add 45 employees by the end of next year. The sapphires are used to make blue light-emitting diodes or LEDs used in everything from traffic signals to giant television screens.

Tips and Links

The Snohomish County Job Fair will be held on September 7 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at Everett Community College, Parks Building and Jackson Center on campus. Employers include governmental, educational, banking industry, temporary agencies, Community Transit US Airforce, ATT Wireless, Cintas and many more. For more information call Betsy Shields or Kathryn Requa at (425) 338-9278 / 9279.

Forty-five eager-to-hire employers will be recruiting at the **Snohomish County WorkFrist Job Fair** on September 19, 2000, 2 - 4 p.m. The event will be held in the Holiday Inn's Dome on the north site of the complex just off Interstate 5 at Exit #186 101 - 128th Street SW, Everett, WA 98201. Employers represent a variety of work environments including: banking/finance, technical, transportation, administrative, medical, temporary services, light manufacturing, retail and more. For best results candidates are urged to come early and stay late; bring plenty of resumes and dress for a job interview. Parents are not advised to bring children.

For questions or to offer material for this newsletter, contact Don Ayers at ESD – LMEA, PO Box 9046, Olympia, WA 98507-9046 or call the Labor Market Information Center at 1-800-215-1617, Fax (360) 438-4109.

